AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application:

1. (**Currently Amended**) A lever ring for seaming to a body and for receiving a closure layer affixed with an edge portion by sealing and for bridging an inner space of the lever ring, to close the body in a seam-connected position, wherein

(i) the lever ring ~~comprises~~ has a continuous flat web which radially outwardly merges into an edge rim of the lever ring, a continuous surrounding groove extending between the edge rim and the flat web;

(ii) the flat web is suitable for affixing the edge portion of the closure layer by sealing, and extends at an angle ~~(α1, α2, α3)~~ differing from zero with respect to a plane of the closure layer affixed by said sealing.

2. (**Currently Amended**) A lever ring for seaming to a body and for receiving a closure layer affixed with an edge portion thereof by sealing and for bridging an inner space of the lever ring, to close the body in a seam-connected position, wherein

(i) the lever ring ~~comprises~~ having a continuous flat web which radially outwardly continues into an edge rim of the lever ring, a continuous groove extending between the edge rim and the flat web;

(ii) the flat web extends upwardly inclined from a horizontal plane at an angle ~~(α2)~~ differing from zero and is provided with an inner curling on its radially inner end so that a closure layer sealed to the flat web and subjected to a pressure force ~~(F_i)~~ acting vertically to a plane of extension of the closure layer

introduces a substantial force component ~~(z)~~ into a sealing zone, so that the force component extends in an extension direction of the sealing zone.

3. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the angle differing from zero is between substantially 10° and substantially 90°.

4. (**Currently Amended**) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the angle ~~(α2)~~ is between substantially 40° and 60°.

5. (**Currently Amended**) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the angle ~~(α2)~~ is between substantially 25° and 35°.

6. (**Currently Amended**) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the angle ~~(α2)~~ is between substantially 80° and 90°.

7. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the angle differing from zero extends substantially vertically to the extension of the plane of the closure layer.

8. (**Currently Amended**) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein said sealing of the closure layer is a sealing of an edge portion of the closure layer in a sealing zone to the flat web which sealing zone extends circumferentially ~~along with the edge rim of the lever ring~~.

9. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the flat web comprises radially inwards an inner curling.

10. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the closure layer extends over the inner curling and is deflected so that an edge strip is formed, which extends at an angle differing from zero, with respect to a plane of the closure layer in the inner space of the lever ring.

11. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the closure layer is formed as a membrane made of one or more materials selected from a group consisting of: plastic, sheet metal, metal foil, and compound foil.

12. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the sealing zone as a strip extending circumferentially has a substantial width of extension on the flat web, the width being more than half of a width of the flat web.

13. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the inner curling axially projects above an upper side of the lid rim with an alignment of the flat web that projects steeply upwards.

14. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the groove is wedge-shaped with a rounded bottom and is formed between a chuck wall extending towards the surrounding lid rim and the surrounding inclined flat web.

15. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the angle differing from zero is between substantially 10° and substantially 90°.

16. (**Currently Amended**) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the angle ~~(α2)~~ is between substantially 40° and 60°.

17. (**Currently Amended**) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the angle ~~(α2)~~ is between substantially 25° and 35°.

18. (**Currently Amended**) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the angle ~~(α2)~~ is between substantially 80° and 90°.

19. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the angle differing from zero extends substantially vertically to the extension of the plane of the closure layer .

20. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein said receiving of the closure layer is a sealing of an edge of the closure layer to a circumferential sealing strip on the flat web.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the closure layer extends over the inner curling and is thereby deflected so that an edge strip is formed, which

extends at an angle differing from zero, with respect to the plane of the closure layer in the inner space of the lever ring.

23. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the closure layer is formed as a membrane made of one or more materials selected from a group consisting of: plastic, sheet metal, metal foil, and compound foil.

24. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein a sealing strip extending circumferentially has a substantial width on the flat web, this width being more than half of a width of the flat web.

25. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein an inner curling at the flat web axially projects above an upper level of the lid rim with an alignment of the flat web projecting steeply upwards.

26. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the groove is of a wedge-shape having a rounded bottom and is formed between a chuck wall extending towards the lid rim and the flat web extending at an angle differing from zero.